

TRADITIONS SET AT NAUGHT

HOW THE ARBITRATION TREATY CAME TO BE PUBLISHED

SECRETARY OLNEY EMPHASIZES HIS CONTEMPT
FOR THE SENATE BY GIVING IT TO THE
CORRESPONDENT OF A LONDON PAPER

AND HIS OWN ORGAN IN BOSTON.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
Washington, Jan. 12.—There is an element of irresistible humor in the prompt publication of the Arbitration Treaty which only those can fully appreciate who have noted the anxious care of former Secretaries of State and the members of the "deliberative branch" of Congress to

to keep the American public ignorant of things that most vitally concern them. The Senate has not quite succeeded yet—it probably never will—in looking with philosophic calm or in a spirit of resignation upon what seems like a premature and wholly indefensible publication of a secret document, for occasionally the shock of its sensibilities receive when a treaty finds its way into public print before official promulgation is strong enough to rouse it into setting on foot a solemn investigation. The last of these investigations was the result of the publication in the *Tribune* of an extradition treaty with Great Britain, as, indeed, a similar investigation

appearance in the columns of The Tribune of the more important treaty which submitted the Alabama claims to arbitration, and created the Geneva Tribunal.

Neither investigation led to any practical results, of course. In the one case the correspondent of The Tribune suffered for a short period the discomforts of Congressional imprisonment; in the other, instigated by Mr. Dolph, of Oregon, eighty or more full grown men swore each other and solemnly declared that never—no, never—had any one of them breathed to a living soul, much less passed on to anything in any way connected

with the executive sessions of the Senate.

TRIFLING WITH SENATORIAL "COURTESY."

Secretary Olney punctures much of this mystery, using no plainer term for the present, with as much unconcern as he would display in taking a fish from the hook. He has already expressed his contempt for Congress by informing it that the Executive branch of the Gov-

ernment will snap its fingers at any resolution of the two houses may pass, even though by a two-thirds vote, touching the recognition of Cuban independence. He now emphasizes that contempt by treading under foot the tenderest traditions of the Senate, and ignoring the much-prized privilege of closing its doors on the public and surrounding its deliberations with awe-inspiring mystery. No Secretary of State before him has ventured to trifle with that delicate thing known as "courtesy to the Senate." No member of the Cabinet—certainly not Mr. Cleveland's—has ever hazarded taking so independent

step as purchasing a treaty, and the obtaining permission to enter the White House. In respect to this matter, Mr. Cleveland seems to inspire in his Secretary of State no more awe than do Congress. What the Senate will do when it recovers from the shock cannot, of course, be predicted. It will be something terrible, no doubt.

But Mr. Olney is original as well as courageous. No such original conception, certainly, entered the brain of any of his predecessors. He is the first who can reasonably be considered distinguished—as that of choosing an English newspaper as the proper vehicle of communicating to the American public what he desires to say, or what he thinks it is entitled to say. The method has possibly something to recommend it to Mr. Olney. It may even be assumed that it has decided advantages. Mr. Olney would not be likely to employ it. A gentleman inclined to such a line of thought is hardly likely to

many of his official acts, is apt to keep constantly in mind and give practical illustrations of the memorable proposition laid down by the late Preston B. Plumb in a moment of grim humor: "Public office is a private snap."

FURNISHED TO "THE CHRONICLE."

Whatever the motives of Mr. Olney, or the advantages of the method devised by him for communicating with the American public, it is known

that the ink the signatures to the treaty was not dry, and the Senate had not even begun its solemn deliberations over the proposal to remove the injunction of secrecy from the treaty. Before the correspondent here of "The London Chronicle" received a copy of the document from Secretary Olney. That he had the right to do so nobody will deny of Mr. Olney, but the "London Chronicle" is not the "London Chronicle," the correspondent likewise of "The Boston Globe," the Secretary's political home organ. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that Mr. Olney knew exactly what he was doing when he had the correspondent of the Plumb aphorism here. Mr. Low is to be congratulated, of course, and very deservedly so, for being in a position to "work the

raise for creating an element of hilarity in an otherwise dull and dreary situation.
 Whatever criticism may attach to Mr. Olney's peculiar methods of letting his countrymen know what the State Department is occupied with, there is very great unanimity of opinion that he has done a very wise thing in giving a black eye to the fetch of mystery-mongering. Most newspapers no doubt would prefer furnishing to their readers news touching the foreign relations of his country by way of London, than not furnish it at all. Why, then, find fault with Mr. Olney's peculiar methods?

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SOME ENGLISH VIEWS.

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WELCOMING THE "ERA OF GOOD FEELING."

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LORD SALISBURY, SIR JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE,
 PRESIDENT CLEVELAND AND SECRETARY
 OLNEY COMMENDED FOR THEIR SER-
 VICES—SENATOR WOLCOTT AND
 THE BIMETALLISTS.

(BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.)

London, Jan. 12.—The signing of the arbitration treaty between the United States and England supplies the leading topic for editorial comment in nearly every London journal. The afternoon press profits by the exclusive publication of the text of fifteen articles of the treaty in "The Daily Chronicle's" largest type, and discusses the subject more intelligently, but possibly less hopelessly, than the morning journals, which, with a

single exception, were in the dark. How "The Chronicle" obtained the text is a mystery which is not explained. The hiatus in the text of one article, for which the editor apologizes as the "result of an accident," implies that the entire document was transmitted by cable from Washington, with an unfinished paragraph which could not be filled out. The precautions taken

Surprise and gratification are generally expressed over the unexpected fact that the operation of the treaty is not subject to exception or reserve, and that not even questions affecting

tational honor lie outside its scope. The treaty so comprehensive as to provide for every possible emergency, but the text shows that the negotiators themselves do not believe that arbitration will always be final. "The Westminster Gazette," by asserting that Secretary Olney might have disputed England's right to be in Canada at all under his interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine, attempts to furnish a claim which could not be submitted to arbitration, but

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